

What is claimed is:

1. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine, comprising:  
a crankshaft;

5 an output shaft for outputting a rotation driving force  
in decelerated state from an original rotation of the crankshaft,  
separated from the crankshaft and placed coaxially with the  
crankshaft, and

10 an intermediate shaft having a reduction gear for  
decelerating and transmitting a rotation driving force of the  
crankshaft, placed in parallel with the crankshaft,  
wherein the rotation driving force of the crankshaft  
is transmitted to the output shaft through the intermediate  
shaft.

15 2. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine according  
to claim 1, wherein the intermediate shaft is placed in a crankcase  
space for accommodating the crankshaft.

20 3. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine according  
to claim 1, wherein the crankcase is split to an upper part  
and a lower part on a splitting face, and the intermediate  
shaft is placed on the splitting face of the crankcase on a  
same plane with the crankshaft.

25 4. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine according

to claims 1,

wherein the output shaft is connected coaxially to  
the crankshaft through a bearing,

one of a side end portion of the output shaft and a  
5 side end portion of the crankshaft is set to be an outer shaft,  
the other is set to be an inner shaft, and

the bearing is provided between an inner face of the  
outer shaft and an outer face of the inner shaft.

10 5. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine according  
to claim 1, wherein a housing for accommodating the intermediate  
shaft is placed in a rear and lower portion of the crankcase.

15 6. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine according  
to claim 1, wherein a V-belt type continuously variable  
transmission is mounted on the engine and the engine is mounted  
on a snowmobile.

20 7. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine according  
to claim 6,

wherein a starter motor is placed on an rear portion  
of the engine, and

25 the intermediate shaft is placed in a rear portion  
of the engine and under the starter motor, so that said  
intermediate shaft is closer to the crankshaft than the starter  
motor in a side view.

8. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine according to claim 1, wherein the engine is mounted on a planing boat.

9. A drive mechanism for a four-cycle engine according  
5 to claim 8,

wherein a starter motor is placed on an rear portion  
of the engine, and

the intermediate shaft is placed in a rear portion  
of the engine and under the starter motor, so that said  
10 intermediate shaft is closer to the crankshaft than the starter  
motor in a side view.